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TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY SOTO

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Anthony Soto, a summer law intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Anthony is a graduate of Florida International University in Miami, FL, where he majored in political science. Currently, he is entering his last year at Florida State University Law School. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Anthony for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN MAINE DISTILLING COMPANY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, my home State of Maine is home to countless young entrepreneurs who are working to ensure that our State and Nation have a vibrant, growing economy for years to come. Two of these remarkable individuals reside in northern Maine, where they have begun a booming business based on a college project. Today I recognize the founders of the Northern Maine Distilling Company for their tremendous accomplishments in such a short period of time.

Scott Galbiati and Jessica Jewell were students at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute when they worked on a class project together to design a business plan. They chose to create a distillery. And after getting married in 2006, they took their venture to the next level, deciding that this would not remain an abstract plan developed in a classroom, but that they would see this business to its fruition. Most exciting of all, they decided they would create their company in Maine.

After many trial runs and much hard work, Scott and Jessica based their company in Houlton, a small community on the State's eastern border with Canada. By utilizing the town's high quality water supply, the locally made and distilled Twenty 2 Vodka, the distillery's flagship product, has quickly become recognized as a truly unique product of Maine.

Northern Maine Distilling uses only American made products in their production process, resulting is the creation of 50 gallons of vodka per batch. Additionally, by using their Web site and other social media sites in a smart and effective manner, Scott and Jessica have been able to reach out to communities across the country, sharing recipes and ideas with people nationwide.

Twenty 2 Vodka has won several awards over the course of its short ex-

istence on the shelves. It received the bronze medal at the New York International Spirits Competition and the 2010 World Beverage Competition, and last year bested all competitors at both the Consumer Judged SIP Awards and San Francisco World Spirits Competition, taking home the gold at both. The vodka has quickly won wide acclaim, and can be found in a variety of locations across the State.

But perhaps the biggest achievement for Scott and Jessica thus far was being named the 2011 Entrepreneurs of the Year by the Leaders Encouraging Aroostook Development, or LEAD, and Momentum Aroostook. These two organizations are dedicated to fostering economic growth and development in Maine's northernmost county, and by recognizing Jessica and Scott with this prestigious award, they have identified two of Maine's rising stars in the business world.

Starting and growing a business is not any easy task, as any entrepreneur will tell you. But successful business owners demonstrate critical characteristics, like perseverance, commitment, and pragmatism. The Northern Maine Distilling Company was born out of these traits, which clearly shine through in Jessica Jewell and Scott Galbiati. I thank everyone at the Northern Maine Distilling Company for their hard work, and wish them much success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 23. Joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget.

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1317. A bill to allow individuals to choose to opt out of the Medicare part A benefit.

S. 1323. A bill to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2342. A communication from the Deputy Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Criteria Used to Order Administrative Detention of Food for Human or Animal Consumption" (RIN0910-AG67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 29, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2343. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Civil Money Penalty Amount for Inflation" (RIN2501-AD52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 29, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2344. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Libyan Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 570) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 29, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2345. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alphabetical Listings: Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons; Blocked Vessels; Persons Determined to be the Government of Iran" (31 CFR Chapter V) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 29, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2346. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the competitiveness of the export financing services for the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2347. A communication from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2010 Management Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2348. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Alaska Plaice in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XA483) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2349. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; Final 2011 and 2012 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish; Correction" (RIN0648-XZ90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.